

# 2012 OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

## WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a bylaw and the main policy document in a community. It states the goals and policies used to guide decisions on planning and land use management within the community. It should be a visionary and future oriented document that answers the questions: “*What do we want our community to be?*” and “*How are we going to get there?*”

Part 7 of the *Municipal Act* stipulates that an OCP **MUST** proactively address:

- ▶ Future land use and development within the municipality boundaries;
- ▶ How the municipality will provide services and facilities to residences and businesses;
- ▶ Any environmental matters in the municipality;
- ▶ How utility and transportation systems will be developed or maintained; and
- ▶ When and how OCP and Zoning Bylaw will be regularly reviewed, with each review to be held within “a reasonable period of time”.

An OCP **MAY** address any other matter that Council considers important – this could include:

- ▶ Culture and heritage
- ▶ Energy conservation
- ▶ Land use patterns
- ▶ Water quality and protection
- ▶ Growth boundaries and management of growth
- ▶ Affordable housing
- ▶ Tourism and economic development
- ▶ Mining and resource protection
- ▶ Environment and habitat
- ▶ Transportation including walking, biking and transit

## OCPS AND OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS

An OCP can be a stage setter for other planning and development processes, as illustrated in the diagram below.



Generally speaking, an OCP is a high level visionary document. A series of related planning bylaws (e.g. zoning bylaw and subdivision and development servicing bylaw) are the implementation tools that actually help turn the vision into a reality.

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## WHY ARE WE UPDATING THE OCP?

Typically, OCP's are reviewed every five years or so. The current OCP was adopted in 1992 and is in need of a total revision to ensure the community is equipped with a modern and usable plan that is "owned by the community". In particular, the new OCP will:

- ▶ Enable the community to identify the key characteristics of Dawson that they want to preserve or enhance as well as those they want to see changed.
- ▶ Provide an opportunity for the community to come together to develop and communicate a shared vision for what Dawson should be in the future.
- ▶ Provide Council and Staff with a clear direction and a framework to implement other plans and policies throughout community.
- ▶ Be a key communication tool to the community, potential developers, senior government agencies, industry and business, First Nations and others.

## WHAT WILL THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

Ensuring lots of opportunity for meaningful public consultation is a key to developing an effective OCP. The schedule below shows the steps that will happen between now and when the OCP is completed before municipal elections in 2012.

### *Phase 1 – Project Initiation (November 2011)*

- ▶ Develop a consultation plan for engaging residents and stakeholders
- ▶ Collect and summarize relevant community information and data on a wide range of issues

### *Phase 2 – Consultation Session # 1 (December 5 to 9, 2011)*

- The project consultants will lead a comprehensive, one-week consultation process to inform people in Dawson and get them talking about their ideas and concerns. The process will include a combination of workshops, open houses, presentations and informal discussions with the public.

*For more information on this "OCP-in-a-Week" please stay tuned for more press releases or contact the City at 867-993-7400 or visit our Facebook page via [www.cityofdawson.ca](http://www.cityofdawson.ca)*

### *Phase 3 – Develop First Draft of OCP*

- ▶ write the first draft of the OCP, based on community dialogue and feedback;
- ▶ facilitate workshop with Staff and Council to discuss the draft;

### *Phase 4 – Consultation Session # 2*

- ▶ Prepare summary newsletter on the OCP and host a virtual town hall meeting
- ▶ Meet with relevant community agencies

### *Phase 6 – Finalize OCP & Develop a New Zoning Bylaw*

- ▶ Finalize draft plan and begin the process to adopt it
- ▶ Develop, finalize and adopt new zoning bylaw
- ▶ Showcase event to "launch" the new bylaws in the community